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1 2 3 4	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO EASTERN DIVISION
5	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
6) Plaintiff,) Case No.
7	vs.) 5:07CR460-1
8	LONNIE RAY KERESTES,
9	Defendant.)
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12	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS HAD BEFORE THE HONORABLE
13	JUDGE CHRISTOPHER A. BOYKO, JUDGE OF SAID COURT,
14	ON MONDAY, AUGUST 11TH, 2008
15	COMMENCING AT 11:00 O'CLOCK A.M.
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20	Court Reporter: GEORGE J. STAIDUHAR 801 W. SUPERIOR AVE.,
21	SUITE 7-184 CLEVELAND, OHIO 44113
22	(216) 357-7128
23	
24	
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1	APPEARANCES:
2	On behalf of the Government:
3	OFFICE OF THE U.S. ATTORNEY
4	BY: MICHAEL SULLIVAN, AUSA CAROL SKUTNIK, AUSA 801 W. Superior Avenue, Suite 400
5	Cleveland, OH 44113
6	
7	On behalf of the Defendant:
8	OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL PUBLIC DEFENDER BY: CARLOS WARNER, ASSISTANT FEDERAL
9	PUBLIC DEFENDER Skylight Office Tower, Suite 750
10	Cleveland, OH 44113
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PROCEEDINGS

THE COURT: Please be seated, ladies and gentlemen. Mr. Kerestes I see is present. Mr. Carlos Warner is here representing him; Mr. Michael Sullivan, Ms. Carol Skutnik on behalf of the Government; Mr. Allen Gold from probation.

We are here today for sentencing.

Mr. Warner, would you please go to the podium with Mr. Kerestes?

MR. WARNER: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Warner, I will start with

Have you received a copy of the presentence investigation report and had sufficient time to sit down

MR. WARNER: I have, your Honor.

THE COURT: Mr. Kerestes, I want to make sure you have had sufficient time to sit down with Mr. Warner, go over this presentence investigation report in detail, and have him answer any of your questions to your satisfaction.

Has that been done?

with Mr. Kerestes and go over it in detail?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Warner, I will start

with you. Certainly, we have had a conversation in my chambers, yourself, Mr. Sullivan, Ms. Skutnik, Mr. Gold regarding various matters that were raised in the presentence investigation report. I do have your memorandum in aid of sentencing, which I have read.

I do have the psychological report from

Joseph Sharis and also, of course, the one from the

Department of Public Welfare and Family Services, I

should say, in Pennsylvania regarding the assessment made

on the allegation against Mr. Kerestes.

I have read everything, and please, if you will, address the report itself and the objections you may have, and we will take it from there.

Go ahead, Mr. Warner.

MR. WARNER: Thank you, your Honor. May it please the Court, we did have a long conversation in chambers about the objections we presented and preserved. I will just briefly cover them, and I have a few exhibits for what I will call a third objection. That goes towards the pattern of abuse.

The three guideline objections, first of all, is the denial of the acceptance of responsibility. As we stated in our objections that are included in the presentence report and in his acceptance that is in the report, we believe he has fully accepted responsibility

for this offense.

Similar on obstruction of justice, you know, we talked a rot about obstruction in the back. There were three people in this interview. All three of us were there, three people being myself, Mr. Gold, and Mr. Kerestes. I don't believe that he obstructed justice, and I don't think he lied to Mr. Gold at any point.

Bottom line is that he has vehemently denied ever abusing any of his children, especially the ones that were the subject of this report. He said that to Mr. Gold. Mr. Gold indicated at some point he thought that Mr. Kerestes was not being honest.

There was a question about whether or not he has ever had sex with a minor and whether or not —

Mr. Gold recollects the question with a minor, even when you were a minor. I don't recollect that second clause.

I do recollect allowing him to answer that question, even though I knew about these allegations from Pennsylvania because Lonnie has been very firm in his position then, now, and in the future; that he never did anything to these children, and he is completely innocent of it.

So I allowed him to answer that question.

Mr. Gold had some issue as to whether or not when he was

15 he had consensual sex with another 15 year-old and whether or not that was lying. That's just frankly silly because that's not what the — it has no relevance at all, and secondly, that's not how we recall the question. So we don't think there has been any obstruction here.

Most importantly is the third objection, and that's whether or not there was a pattern of abuse, and what this Court is forced to do is determine whether or not, based upon this non adversarial proceeding, that was prosecuted for lack of a better word by a social worker where Mr. Kerestes had no interaction at all with the proceedings during a contentious divorce, where he had no notice of report at all on this case, where he simply got a letter, which I will submit to the Court as Defendant's Exhibit — Government exhibits — excuse me — Defendant's Exhibit 2 and 3 — I had to use Government exhibit stickers — from the Carbon County Children Youth Services that there has been an indication — there has been an indication of abuse.

Based upon that and based upon Mr. Kerestes' denial, which came immediately thereafter in a letter, based upon those things, Mr. Gold and the Government are arguing there is a pattern of abuse that should enhance his sentence by five levels under the Guidelines.

As is stated in Mr. Gold's report, first

disclosure, which I have provided to the Court as, I believe, the fourth exhibit, Lonnie at the time of the interview vehemently denied it. He denies today. He denied it back then. It never happened. I told Mr. Gold that why wasn't there a prosecution?

Mr. Gold's answer to that — and I don't know what the Government wants to proffer on this — but Mr. Gold's answer to that was to the effect that in this part of Pennsylvania these crimes are not prosecuted.

That's a preposterous answer. There is no indication — there is no police reports.

I believe the Government will not present anything that would indicate that the state took any action on this, criminal or otherwise, to get Mr. Gold as advocating that there be a five-level increase based upon this one-sided non adversarial report.

Bottom line is that Lonnie has a constitutional right to maintain his innocence, and he should not be punished under Oprendi, under all the law that we have had recently from the Supreme Court for conduct that has not been proven beyond a reasonable doubt, and that's precisely what the probation officer and the Government is intending to do now.

They are intending to increase his guideline levels by five levels based upon a non adversarial

one-sided proceeding that Mr. Kerestes opposed as best he could at the time and continues to, and that frankly violates the Constitution. So we are asking that the Court not impose that five-level increase.

Additionally, it should be noted that

Mr. Kerestes — and this goes to the second argument —

but he has never hidden the fact that there is this

investigation. He told the FBI about it. He told

Pretrial Services about it; told Mr. Gold about it, and
therefore, we ask the Court what was he to do? How is he
to disprove this?

Bottom line is, he doesn't have to disprove it; the Government has to prove it. They haven't done it. They didn't do it in Pennsylvania, and we don't believe they could hold their burden of proof today.

So on that basis, we would ask that that objection be overruled as well. The Court can consider the objections and the sentencing memorandum as additional support for this argument. And unless the Court wishes to hear my mitigation on Mr. Kerestes, I can reserve that until after the objections are determined.

THE COURT: Well, I am going to go ahead and make my findings after all is said and done, Mr. Warner, so please go ahead and on behalf of Mr. Kerestes in

regard to mitigation.

MR. WARNER: Thank you, your Honor.

I will not rehash the entire sentencing memorandum on this case. Lonnie has been a client for over a year now. We were talking about it, and it has been a very long road, and I have watched him go through all the stages of loss that one goes through. I have talked extensively with his family. I have talked extensively with him. We have met, I would say, dozens of times within the past year, and I could just tell the Court what I see in Lonnie and what I see from this point forward.

No matter what the Court's decision is on these objections there is going to be a term of imprisonment here, and it is going to be a long one, and that's different for this gentleman. This gentleman has up to this point lived a completely law abiding life. He is not like most of our defendants, especially — we do have some defendants here with no Criminal History.

But you look at what Mr. Kerestes has done up to this point in his life, he served in the Armed Forces. He was a Marine. After he was a Marine, he was a corrections officer. He has fathered children. He has been, despite what these reports might say, a very good father, and there is support for that in my sentencing

memorandum. He is a loved son by his mother Nancy.

Lisa O'Brien is disturbed about what was going on here. Lisa O'Brien is Mr. Kerestes' fiancee, mother to his children. She understands what is going on. She begs the Court to give him help but that being said also realizes that he is an important part of those kids' lives, and she, knowing the allegations full well, wants him back home to assist her and to be a father to these children.

You know, what we do in this Court is based upon burdens of proof, and we do that so we don't just jump to conclusions as it applies to people, and I am begging the Court not to jump to the conclusions that both the probation office and the Government are asking the Court to make here. He made a very sad and sorry mistake when he came here to Ohio, and he would be the first one to tell you that.

He regretted that mistake from the first moment, and I asked him, you know, why? What happened here? I think he addressed it somewhat in his acceptance of responsibility, but the bottom line is that he has some problems that need to be worked on. All of us have some problems.

He realizes that his problems are severe and have changed really the rest of his life, but that being

said, he has never once expressed a desire not to work on the problems. He never once said, you know, I didn't do this. He showed remorse from the beginning, and he is just doing his best to make this better, and I told him all you can do to make this better is to focus on the future from this point forward.

If you look back, it is going to be painful, but you can redeem yourself, and you can do it by doing what you have to do to get back to your family and also doing what it takes to be healthy. And I think he is willing to do both of those things.

And I would ask the Court to consider those things and consider this gentleman in imposing a sentence that is sufficient but not greater than necessary.

I have gone through all those factors in my sentencing memorandum. I am not going to rehash them, but frankly, a sentence in the range we believe appropriate, 23, would be sufficient and not greater than necessary to do all the things that the statute requires and also to protect the public.

This is a gentleman that the Court has the discretion to put on a lifetime supervised release, and that sanction in and of itself for somebody with no prior Criminal History is the kind of sanction that allows protection for the public but also allows the

rehabilitation of Lonnie. And we would ask that the 1 2 Court consider that in imposing a low end or guideline sentence at Criminal History level 23. That's all that I 3 4 have. 5 I know that he would like to speak to the 6 Court as well, and I would like to reserve in case there 7 is something that needs to be addressed in the 8 Government's presentation. 9 THE COURT: Mr. Warner, thank you. 10 Mr. Kerestes, is there anything you wish to 11 say? 12 THE DEFENDANT: On August 8, 2007, I 13 committed a crime, and I am very sorry for that, your 14 Honor. It has been a long road for the last year. 15 lost just about everything in my life: My job, my 16 family, friends, some relatives. I just ask that justice 17 be served, and you can see a light and allow me to work 18 on what I need to work on, get counseling, that I need, 19 and I am sorry. I can't go on. I'm sorry. 20 Thank you, your Honor. 21 THE COURT: All right, Mr. Kerestes. 22 Mr. Sullivan, your thoughts on behalf of the 23 Government? 24 Thank you, Judge. MR. SULLIVAN: 25 First, addressing the objections to the PSR,

as far as the obstruction of justice, the additional points of obstruction of justice and Mr. Gold's recommendation that the Defendant not receive acceptance of responsibility, Judge, it is clear that in this case Mr. Kerestes from the time he was interviewed by the FBI agents, when he was interviewed by pretrial and then, lastly, when he was interviewed by Mr. Gold conveyed the impression with all those authorities that while there was a previous allegation of sexual molestation against him, it was the product of an ugly divorce and there was nothing to do, and there was no basis for it and nothing came of it.

We know now that that's not entirely the case. While no criminal prosecution may have come from it, Mr. Kerestes was notified that the case was indicated by the state of Pennsylvania. And Judge, I believe — I believe you have been provided with the documentation from the state of Pennsylvania as well as the psychological assessment of Mr. Kerestes.

I would ask that those be marked as part of this sentencing hearing, preserved, and also that they be sealed. Additionally, I would ask that the exhibits that Mr. Warner proffered to the Court be sealed because if they contain the child's name, the child's name is contained, that can't be a public record.

But going back to my argument, clearly, he was committing the impression that nothing came of it, but something did. It was indicated. He was told it was indicated, and to prove that, we know he appealed that, he appealed that finding. He appealed that finding to the state of Pennsylvania, and he was notified that his appeal was rejected, and that they stood by their finding that it was an indicated case.

So he did know that something came of it.

So as far as obstruction goes, we would rely on the

Court's analysis, but from the Government standpoint, we

feel that the evidence shows that Mr. Kerestes misled the

FBI agents at the beginning after he was arrested, the

Pretrial Services as well as Mr. Gold during his

interview of probation.

So certainly, we feel Mr. Gold was justified in the report adding the points for obstruction and not recommending the points for acceptance of responsibility.

As far as the enhancement for pattern of activity, the Government's position would be that the evidence that we have just asked the Court to accept and mark clearly sets forth by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Kerestes engaged in this pattern of activity, and Mr. Warner is just, frankly, wrong about

comparing this to Oprendi. This is not an Oprendi situation. The case law is clear that the Court can engage in fact finding at sentencing for relevant conduct, and relevant conduct can support enhancements.

Indeed, the Sixth Circuit in the case of David Brown, which was decided in November of 2006, involved just such a finding where the Sixth Circuit upheld the application of the same enhancement of Mr. Brown, and the case law is clear that the Court can engage in that fact finding, and that the standard of proof is preponderance of evidence.

That being said, frankly, I don't think someone could read — Mr. Warner again minimizes as this being some type of investigation done by a social worker. That's not the case. If you read through it carefully, Judge, and I know you have, that is a very detailed assessment of the child done by a licensed psychologist, not just by a social worker but by a psychologist who carefully quotes and goes through the interview process with that child.

I can tell you from someone who has prosecuted child abuse for over almost 20 years, that was a carefully done interview of that child, and if you read it, anybody that reads it I think would certainly come away finding what was in that report and to be credible

information from that child alleging the acts of abuse that that child suffered at the hands of Mr. Kerestes.

And frankly, even Mr. Kerestes'

psychological report, while he denies it, even the psychologist was certainly not overly impressed with Mr. Kerestes himself and found that he was certainly minimizing, shifting the blame on a lot of things.

In addition — and we know this to be the case — that he also, Mr. Kerestes in here, was accused of incidents involving child pornography, which he denied to that psychologist. And we know, while it is not part of this case, certainly, we know that that — there was certainly evidence of child pornography on Mr. Kerestes' computer back in Pennsylvania, which still —

MR. WARNER: Your Honor, I am objecting to that, and that's the kind of evidence the Court should not, cannot rely on in this hearing. I want to make that clear for the record.

THE COURT: All right. I am not going to rely on the child pornography.

Go ahead, Mr. Sullivan.

MR. SULLIVAN: Well, Judge, also, I indicate that — well, we will get to that next.

Reading that psychological assessment of the child, I think there is clear evidence by a preponderance

of the evidence that Mr. Kerestes did engage in that pattern of activity, and therefore, the Government would submit that that enhancement is supportive as well.

As to the sentence in this case and other comments made by Mr. Warner, by Mr. Kerestes as to Mr. Warner, Mr. Warner claims that Mr. Kerestes — and I believe the part his girlfriend wants to welcome him back, wants him back, but I think he relies on the letter submitted to this Court.

But I would note that the letter submitted to this Court is dated October 2007 and November of 2007, and in the report prepared by Mr. Gold, indeed, I believe he indicates that based on his interview of the girlfriend, Mr. Kerestes was not going to be welcome back in that home, and she indicated that he would not be able to return to her home when he was released from prison.

And that would also be supported by the fact — and Mr. Warner can object — but in this case, the girlfriend did cooperate with authorities in turning evidence over to the authorities subsequent to Mr. Kerestes coming to Ohio. So I would say whether or not she is going to be welcoming him home is certainly doubtful.

As to the comments of Mr. Kerestes, he says that on August 8, 2007, he committed a crime. He made a

mistake. Well, it was not just August 8, 2007, Judge. He started chatting first of all with this undercover officer on July 18, 2007, to try to have sex with a 14 year-old child, and more importantly, he started chatting in — I am not sure — in a chat room, a chat room entitled m—e—i—n—u—r—d—o—t—p—a.

Now, when Mr. Kerestes was interviewed by the agents, he admitted that that stood for "me and your daughter Pennsylvania," and that he created that chat room. So he didn't just make a mistake on August 8th. He created a chat room to find women willing to let him have sex with their daughters. He created a chat room, "me in your daughter, or "me and your daughter in Pennsylvania."

He said it was "me and your daughter," although it was spelled "me in your daughter". Either way, he created a chat room advertising his desire to engage in sexual activity with children, to try to find women who were willing to let them meet their daughter for sex. So this was not just an isolated incident of him just making a mistake. He was seeking out children to have sex with. He found someone he felt was willing, and he traveled from Pennsylvania to Ohio to engage in sexual activity with a child.

Judge, we believe the Guidelines are the one

sentencing factor that takes into account all the other factors that take into account the seriousness of the offense, the background of the Defendant, the need for punishment. They take all that into account, and the Government believes that the Guidelines range is a range of sentence that comes to a sentence that is sufficient but not greater than necessary to achieve the goals of sentencing, and I would ask you to administer such a sentence.

THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

Mr. Gold, I am going to give you an opportunity to be heard also because not only were you part of our conversation in chambers, but Mr. Warner made statements that I will allow you to respond to if you so wish.

MR. GOLD: Thank you, your Honor.

I believe I can remain with that — with the accuracy of my report without adding additional comments.

THE COURT: Very well. We will let it go at that. Let's take a look at the presentence investigation report and see --

MR. WARNER: Judge, just for the record, if it pleases the Court, can I just respond to a few things? There is a high likelihood based upon the Court's ruling

that there could be an appeal either way. I think there are some things that —

THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Warner.

MR. WARNER: -- and I will keep it brief.

First of all, again, I want to underscore the fact that there is no cross—examination here, no Court review at all. There is no defense at all organized, presented to this, and the fact that in this hearing Mr. Sullivan had an opportunity, this has been continued many times, to coordinate some evidence that might show a preponderance here.

But instead he has relied only on the work of the social worker, and that's frankly what she is.

And Mr. Sullivan said in his 20 years of experience this occurs often. I am saying my eleven years of defense experience in the county, trying these cases, even against Mr. Sullivan, often we find that Children Services workers are not the most fair and balanced people, and that it is a—one sided investigation.

And I think the Court coming from the same background has experience with this as well. So to rely on this, to say there is a preponderance based upon what a social worker is saying when it has been denied the entire time is wrong.

And finally, Dr. Sharis in his report

enhancement, makes some comments that are very important. He is from this area, and I think both Mr. Gold and Mr. Sullivan have, at least, implied, well, often things aren't prosecuted for whatever reason. Well, he is from this area, and he even indicates in his report that, you know, because there is no prosecution, no indictment, it is hard to proceed and know what happened here.

I think that that is the best evidence the

I think that that is the best evidence the Court could rely on in not imposing the five-level enhancement. That's all I have, and I thank the Court for this opportunity and time.

THE COURT: Certainly. Thank you,
Mr. Warner.

MR. SULLIVAN: Judge, and I'm sorry.

THE COURT: Okay. Last time, and then we are going to move on.

MR. SULLIVAN: Yeah. Just that you talk about the social worker, the report I was referring the Court to was from John A. Reinhart, Ph.D. licensed psychologist. It was not a social worker for the Department of Children's Family Service. It was not a she for that matter. He is clearly referring to a different report.

I am referring to the psychological

evaluation that was done of this child by John A. Reinhart, Ph.D., licensed psychologist.

THE COURT: All right. Let me — just so that we are clear, first of all, I am going to place under seal the exhibits that Mr. Warner has marked 1, 2, 3, 4. I will mark the Court's Exhibits A and B. And A will be the Renaissance Psychological and Counseling Corporation, Inc. psychological evaluation of the daughter by John A. Reinhart, Ph.D., licensed psychologist.

The Court will be relying upon that, and also, we will mark as the Court's Exhibit B the psychological associates of Schuylkill County — that's S-c-h-u-y-l-k-i-l-l, and that's by Joseph Sharis, MA, NCC, CCMC after his name, licensed psychologist, and that was done on Mr. Kerestes. That will be B, and again, both of those will also be sealed. Date of evaluation for Dr. Reinhart's report 5-27-06, and Mr. Sharis, I think that was 3-21-05. Now we are clear on that.

Let's take a look at the report. We have

Count 1, travel to engage in illicit sexual conduct with
a minor, a class B felony. The indictment was filed on

August 29th, 2007. The Defendant pled guilty to the
offense of interstate travel for purposes of sexual
conduct with a minor. He pled on February 26 of 2008.

There is no plea agreement in this matter. Mr. Kerestes has been in custody since his arrest.

As far as the offense conduct, we will use this both as the nature and circumstances of the offense once we get to the 3553(a) factors and the offense conduct itself. In this matter, 37 year-old Mr. Kerestes faces sentence for his first conviction. He was convicted of communicating over the internet with an individual he believed to be a 41 year-old woman with a 14 year-old daughter between July 18, 2007, and August 8th of 2007.

The Defendant sought to have the mother teach her daughter various sexual acts with the Defendant as participant. He traveled from Pennsylvania to Ohio in order to meet them and to perform these sexual acts with the pair. That's a summary of what happened here. Okay.

Victim impact: There are no actual victims in this case. We did have an undercover officer posing as the mother who was willing in the scenario to provide access to her daughter, age 14, for sexual purposes. As far as adjustment for obstruction of justice, I know that Mr. Gold is recommending and as well as Mr. Sullivan is recommending for obstruction, as I stated in chambers, this is a close call.

There has been indications that Mr. Kerestes

said there was nothing found. I could see where Mr. Gold would take that to mean there was no finding by the state of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Sullivan alluded to the FBI being misled by Mr. Kerestes.

I can also see the argument by Mr. Kerestes that nothing came of it. At the end, i.e., he was never prosecuted for it, or it never went beyond the finding and the appeal. There is no dispute, and there shouldn't be no dispute that this was — that there was indication of molestation on his daughter and an appeal by Mr. Kerestes to that finding.

Again, that is really undisputed, and the Court so finds. It is the interpretation of the words and by what Mr. Kerestes meant by — by it didn't go anywhere, and certainly, that could mean that it was never prosecuted and stopped at that level.

It is close enough that I am not going to punish him for that obstruction part, so I will make no addition for obstruction.

As far as acceptance of responsibility, I will find that he has accepted responsibility for this crime. He has been consistent that he denied previous behavior, but I will find that he has accepted responsibility. There certainly has been recommendations from probation department as a whole on much less than

what we have here. I am going to accept his statement to be sufficient for reduction.

Offense level computation, the 2007 edition of the Guidelines manual was used, and starting off with a base offense level of 24, we do add two for a specific offense characteristic of Defendant using a computer to communicate with the victims. No victim related adjustment. No adjustment for role in the offense. There will be no adjustment for obstruction of justice. Court will grant three-level reduction for acceptance of responsibility.

Where does that put us at that point?

MR. WARNER: 23, I believe, your Honor

THE COURT: Correct. 23 for adjusted

offense level.

Now, as far as Chapter 4 enhancements — and I understand this is — excuse me — I want to say probably the main argument, the main objection, I have read both reports in detail, that is, by Dr. Reinhart and also by Mr. Sharis. I have taken a look at this case as a whole. Nothing should ever be read as an island so to speak or on its own.

There has to be context to what has happened in this case, and for purposes of the Court's finding whether there should be a Chapter 4 enhancement for

pattern of activity under the Guidelines.

Now, Mr. Kerestes' daughter was evaluated.

I would have to agree with Mr. Sullivan this is a very good report. I have seen countless numbers of reports in my twelve years on the bench. This is a good one. I also took a look at Mr. Sharis' report. Let's start with the difference:

First of all, the daughter and the mother were both interviewed on the first report. Only
Mr. Kerestes was interviewed by Mr. Sharis. It does make a difference. Mr. Sharis did not have the benefit of talking with the daughter or the mother, quite frankly.

Now, as far as the first report by

Dr. Reinhart, Mr. Kerestes has raised consistently the

allegations of a very contentious divorce. I don't doubt

that, and in his view, this is what has caused the mother

to have the child turn against him. We have seen that in

many cases. That's not unusual. I don't find that

convincing in this case.

Her reports are specific, and I am looking at the discussion part, which I thought was very relevant, developmentally appropriate, describing various sexual acts and occurrences. (Child's name redacted) report of one large memory is clinically consistent, indicative of reports given by children who experience

long-term sexual victimization, and here is what is crucial, especially when there is a very contentious divorce, the statements provided by (Child's name redacted) "did not have any adult content, logic, or semantics involved, and her statements appear to be indicative of an 11 year-old female."

That is very important because normally when we have a child being pressured or talked to, coached by a parent, there is something in there that reflects adult influence. I don't find that here. Also, her rationale for not disclosing in the past was very clear and specific due to fear of reprisal from her father and based upon her general fear that she had of his anger within the home. I will find that to be credible, too, because Mr. Kerestes himself suffered some abuse growing up.

We usually find that somehow and many times that is passed down in one way or another. That is consistent. And also the fact that he tried or sought to have sex with a 14 year-old is also consistent.

I would agree with Mr. Sullivan and disagree with Mr. Warner on the part that there is a constitutional violation. Clearly, the law — the Supreme Court of the United States has made clear that the Court can make findings; does not violate the

Constitution. It is appropriate for the Court to make findings.

There is preponderance of the evidence, and second of all, the Guidelines are advisory. They are not mandatory. The Court has discretion whether to accept the Guidelines, stay within them, go up, go down, that is depart, grant a variance under 3553(a). The Court has been given great latitude to do that, and there is no constitutional violation.

The Court is called upon to make a finding, and that is whether under — by a preponderance of the evidence this occurred, and as we know, that means more probable than not, anything over 5-0 percent. I do find that here.

I would not find it beyond a reasonable doubt, and getting to that burden would be difficult, and certainly, that could be an explanation, a reasonable explanation as to why this was not prosecuted. There are many jurisdictions that do not prosecute these types of cases unless they believe they can prove it beyond a reasonable doubt, and many times the word of the child without any corroborating evidence, medical or otherwise, is not good enough for the prosecution. That's understandable.

It has been my experience since I came here

that this U.S. Attorney's Office will not indict unless they believe they have someone beyond a reasonable doubt, quite frankly, very different from the county, which, Ms. Skutnik, you will find as one of the differences.

However, getting back to the issue, I do find it by a preponderance of the evidence; does not need to be more than that, and again, I would not find it beyond a reasonable doubt, and the Court doesn't have to in order to find a pattern of activity.

And again, Mr. Sharis' report, he didn't have the benefit of interviewing (Child's name redacted). He does make a statement, "although deviant sexual interest in children was not identified by the AASI, this may need to be considered tentatively." Makes a couple other statements.

"Although conclusions are limited due to his denial, the role of narcissistic and antisocial traits combined with generalization of sexual behaviors cannot be ruled out as a pathway to offending."

He does waffle back and forth. In fairness to Mr. Warner, he has pointed that out, but again, he did not have the benefit of interviewing the child. So that's the finding of the Court by a preponderance of the evidence.

The five levels will be added as a Chapter 4

enhancement. I believe that brings us to a 28 for a total offense level.

MR. WARNER: Judge, I hate to interrupt — and I thank the Court for its ruling — I would like to just put a couple other things on the record for purposes of appeal before the Court renders sentence if that's okay.

THE COURT: Go ahead, Mr. Warner.

MR. WARNER: -- and I think this is the right place to put it.

First of all, that the psychiatrist and the social worker who prepared the report did not interview Lonnie, same thing, but Mr. Sharis had the benefit of the report. Also, the Court, I believe, made a finding that molestation is passed down generally, and that's — I believe the science would indicate that that's not the case and —

THE COURT: I didn't say that. I didn't say molestation was passed down, but abuse, and it manifests itself in different ways.

MR. WARNER: Okay. Yeah. We would dispute that, and we could provide the Court with that, but most importantly, we also want to preserve a Crawford violation here as well because I believe Mr. Kerestes, when sentenced, depending what the Court does now, is

1 increased here, and he has had no opportunity to 2 cross-examine or otherwise challenge this obviously testimonial evidence, and we believe that it is a 3 4 constitutional violation for the Court to rely on it. 5 So I would like the Court to put that in the record as 6 well. 7 THE COURT: All right. Mr. Warner, thank 8 you. 9 Mr. Sullivan, I will allow you to respond at 10 this point for purposes of the record, too. 11 MR. SULLIVAN: Judge, hearsay is admissible 12 at a sentencing hearing. This is not a trial so it would 13 not be a Crawford violation. But just while I am up on 14 my feet though, Judge, if you could just order when you 15 were reading the report, you did mention the child's name 16 a couple times, if you could order that to be redacted 17 when this record is prepared. 18 It is now with the Court of Appeals all 19 records on appeal are electronically filed, and if you 20 could order the name be redacted in preparation of this 21 record, the child's first name. 22 THE COURT: We will do that. 23 Thank you. 24 MR. SULLIVAN: And we discussed it in the

back, but for the record, the Government would make a

25

motion for the third point for acceptance. I know you granted it, but I already told you we would make it based on these crimes, and I just wanted to make that part of the record.

Thank you.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Sullivan. All right. Let's move on.

Defendant's Criminal History, there is none.

No juvenile adjudications, no adult criminal convictions.

Therefore, he is automatically placed in category I. As far as offender characteristics, Mr. Kerestes was born in Pennsylvania, 1970. His mother resides in North

Carolina. She is retired. Father passed away.

They were divorced when Mr. Kerestes was in his late teens. He does have one brother, and he also has two step brothers and a step sister. He was raised primarily in Pennsylvania by both parents. There was trouble between him and his father. He maintains a good relationship with his mother, but he and his father did not get along.

He claims his childhood was confusing due to moving around a lot. The father apparently couldn't hold down a job or wouldn't hold down a job. There was allegations by the mother of the Defendant's father sexually molesting the sister. There was also concern

about the Defendant.

At 18 he left home, joined the Marine Corps. He met MD. They married in August 1992. Divorce is pending. There is two children, ages 14 and 10. The female is the one we are talking about, age 14. Problems in the marriage led to the pending divorce. However, it does indicate — she did indicate, that is, the spouse, that the Defendant was a good provider with respect to child support.

Mr. Kerestes does have three children with a significant other: Age 3, ages 3, 2, and 1. It appears at this point the relationship will not continue.

Mr. Kerestes did reside with her at the residence from October of '03 until his arrest for the present offense.

Physical condition appears to be good.

Mental and emotional health: Some issues with depression after he separated from his wife. It is usual to have depression since the arrest. There is nothing unusual about that. We have gone through the denials of the sexual contact with his daughter. No need to repeat that.

Defendant does have a history of physical and emotional abuse by his father, and he agrees he would benefit from treatment to address the issues. And he has asked for help. The Court will do its best to grant him

that help.

Substance abuse: When he was 16, he smoked Marijuana about six times, alcohol, began at the age of 15. He indicated he drank excessively when in the military. He admitted he had a problem with alcohol, and he eventually stopped drinking. Educational and vocational skills, he graduated from Panther Valley High School in 1988 and reports graduating from Carbon County Vocational Technical School in Pennsylvania in 1988 studying auto mechanics.

Military record: He entered the Marine

Corps in 1988; separated in 1996 with an honorable

discharge; rank of E-5 as a sergeant. Employment 2004 to

2007, he was employed by Toby Hanna Army Depot in

Pennsylvania as a mechanic. From 2003 to 2004, he was

employed by Defense Support Services. 1998 to 2003, he

was employed by the Pennsylvania Department of

Corrections as a correction officer and prior employment

was as a mechanic in the private sector as well as the

Marines; worked on both gas, diesel, and multi-fuel

vehicles.

Financial condition doesn't look good. Our analysis leads us to believe that he does not have the resources to pay a fine, cost of prosecution, or any other costs of these proceedings. Sentencing options for

the Court, under the statute, the maximum term is 30 1 2 years. Under the Guidelines, based on the total offense 3 level of the Court finding now of 28, Criminal History 4 Category I, our range is 78 to 97, Mr. Gold? 5 MR. GOLD: Your Honor, that would be 46 to 6 57 months at an offense level of 23. 7 MR. SULLIVAN: 28. 8 MR. WARNER: Yeah. 9 MR. GOLD: I apologize, at a 28, that would 10 be 78 to 97 months. 11 THE COURT: Right. I believe that was the 12 Court's finding, right? Okay. Thank you. 13 Again, no plea agreement in this matter. 14 Supervised release under the statute, it is not more than 15 five years, however. 18 U.S.C. 3553(a)(3)(K) provides 16 that a term of supervised release is at least five years 17 and may be any term of up to life for violation of 18 18 U.S.C. Section 2423(b). 19 Under the Guidelines, it is at least three 20 years but not more than five years. Additionally, the 21 term of supervised release may be any term to life under 22 the Guidelines. 23 And the policy statement, if the instant 24 offense of conviction is a sex offense, however, the 25 statutory maximum term of supervised release is as I

recommended. Probation under the statute: Is not eligible because it is a class B felony. Under the Guidelines, again, not eligible because it is a class B felony. He falls in Zone D of the sentencing table and not eligible for probation.

Mandatory drug testing does apply unless the Court finds based upon reliable sentencing information that Mr. Kerestes would indicate a low risk of future substance abuse. Under the statute, that is, 3563 and 3583 of 18 U.S.C., Defendant is required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and must comply with the requirements of that Act as directed by the probation officer.

Fines under the statute, the maximum fine is \$250,000, and special assessment of \$100 is mandatory. I believe our range is \$12,500 to \$125,000.

Mr. Gold?

MR. GOLD: That's correct, your Honor.

THE COURT: Thank you.

Again, a special assessment must be imposed on a convicted Defendant. Paragraph 85 gives us the factors the Court must look at in determining the amount of any fine. I will find those to be irrelevant since Mr. Kerestes has no ability to pay any fine. Restitution is not in issue.

Factors we consider in imposing sentence under U.S. versus Booker and the U.S. Sentencing Commission. There is a three-step analysis: One, determine the appropriate guideline range; two, identify any possible guideline departures, and three, determine if a non guideline sentence that is a variance can be considered under 18 U.S.C. 3553(a).

Our advisory range is 78 to 97 months.

Mr. Gold has not identified any factors that may warrant a departure outside of the range. The Court must impose a sentence sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with the purposes of sentencing set forth under 3553(a). We must take a look at the nature and circumstances of the offense, history and characteristics of the Defendant, the need for the sentence imposed and the kinds of sentences available. Mr. Gold has not identified any sentencing factors that may warrant a variance.

Mr. Warner, at this point, are there any other unresolved objections, concerns that have not be placed upon the record at this time?

MR. WARNER: No, your Honor. We do have a requested recommendation for the BOP for placement. I can do that now or --

THE COURT: We will wait until at the end.

1 MR. WARNER: Okay. Thank you. 2 THE COURT: But don't forget that. Thank 3 you. 4 Mr. Sullivan, at this point, any unresolved 5 objections or concerns by the Government? 6 MR. SULLIVAN: No, Judge. 7 THE COURT: Okay. All right. 8 Let's move on to the 3553(a) factors. 9 Court has already gone over the nature and circumstances 10 of the offense via summary. Both sides and the Court 11 have read the reports. Let's move on to the history and 12 characteristics of the Defendant. Take a look at prior 13 record: Violence, physical abuse, diminished capacity, 14 employment, age, substance abuse, and family ties. 15 Mr. Kerestes has no prior convictions but was indicated 16 to have molested his prepubescent daughter. 17 He then attempted to have sex with a 18 14 year-old girl along with the mother. He has no known 19 history of violence, abuse, or diminished capacity, a 20 limited history of Marijuana use. 21 While in the military he reported drinking 22 heavily but does not appear that he has chemical 23 dependency problems at this time. He does have a regular 24 work history, primarily as a mechanic, which he did in 25 the military and private sector. He was also previously

a correctional officer. His mother resides with his step sister in North Carolina. His father is recently deceased.

He has one brother and a step brother who live in Pennsylvania. Mr. Kerestes is married but separated from his wife; a divorce is pending. His wife and their children reside in Pennsylvania. His former girlfriend and their children also live in Pennsylvania.

Indications of physical and emotional abuse that Mr. Kerestes has suffered at the hands of his father and allegations of molestation by his father against his sister. Need for sentence imposed: I will come back to that when I actually sentence Mr. Kerestes.

Kinds of sentences which are available: The Court has already gone over all of those in detail. No need to repeat. Sentencing disparities: We look at defendants with similar records and conduct, and options that Mr. Kerestes faces are consistent with those with similar backgrounds and similar findings by the Court. No co-defendants in this case. Restitution is not applicable.

We will move back to need for sentence imposed. We will take a look at just punishment, afford adequate deterrence, protect the public, reflect the seriousness of the offense, and improve offender conduct

and condition.

Mr. Kerestes, I think you've already acknowledged the fact that you have to work out some significant issues in your life. I think your childhood was probably pretty traumatic for you because it seems to be manifesting itself in your behavior. When things get tense, I think you indicated that you wanted to, I guess, in escape live out your fantasy and sought to have sex with what you thought was a 41 year-old mother and a 14 year-old daughter.

Indications are correct by Mr. Sullivan that you set this up for the purpose of searching out that kind of fantasy and carrying it on through. I know you have been steadfast in your position that you never sexually molested your daughter in the past. It was not an easy call for me to make, but based upon the evidence that I have, the reports, taking a look at this whole thing in context, I make that finding.

Again, I could not find that beyond a reasonable doubt under any circumstances, but more likely than not, I think there is enough there to find, and the Court has made that determination.

Afford adequate deterrence, you know, you have been in jail since your arrest. As you stated, you've lost probably most everything in your life at this

point. If this hasn't deterred you at this point, I am not sure what will, other than the fact to get you help and get that psychological and emotional part straightened out, that will help you.

And that goes to protecting the public because if we do get you the help that you so sorely need, then you are less likely to reoffend, and you don't find yourself in the justice system any more, and the public is protected from further behavior.

Is it a serious offense? Yes. I mean, we do know that just by the nature of the offense and also the possible penalties that you face.

But I do, again, emphasize improve offender conduct and condition because that is part of the need for the sentence imposed, and when we focus as much on that as we do the other factors and address that, then everybody is protected, and you find yourself a much better and more productive citizen than when you started this whole business.

And that's ultimately what we are looking for as well as getting your personal life straightened out. Again, hopefully that's the case.

Just as an overview, talking about these types of cases and others, the potential sentences that Congress comes up with these cases and others are not

just pulled out of the air. People don't realize all the hearings that are held and all the documents that are submitted, testimony that is taken. So they get a good indication of what is happening across the country.

And contrary to what we do or at the county level, Congress has to address this on a nationwide scale. So it does the best that it can with all the evidence that is brought to it and say what's best for the nation as a whole, and I mean to give you an overview because you should have some context as to why these things are considered to be serious because there is all this evidence coming into Congress saying this is a problem, our children need to be protected, quite frankly.

You know, whether it is child pornography or having sex with underage children, that all goes in the same pot so to speak for Congress to assess and determine what's an appropriate punishment for that type of behavior. All right.

With that in mind, let's go ahead and sentence you. I will give you a sentence which I believe is sufficient but not greater than necessary to comply with the 3553(a) factors.

I have talked about a lot of, if you will, bad things. Before I pass sentence, let me talk about a

couple good things that keep you from being at the top of the offenders, Mr. Kerestes.

You served our country, something to be proud of. You have a good work history. You paid your child support, and regardless of the personal issues that you have had with your ex-wife, there is something to say about supporting your family and working constantly and serving our country. I don't want to let that go by because all of that is important, and it should be mentioned, and I do consider that.

All right. Mr. Kerestes, it is the judgment of this Court that you are committed to the custody of the Bureau of Prisons for a term of 87 months. Upon release from imprisonment, you will be placed on supervised release for life.

Within 72 hours of release from the custody of the Bureau, you will report in person to the U.S. Probation Office in the sentencing district or in the district to which you are released. Based upon a review of your financial condition, I will find that you do not have the ability to pay a fine.

Therefore, it is waived. Restitution is not in issue in this case. You will pay to the United States a special assessment of \$100, which is due immediately. While on supervision, you will not commit another

federal, state, or local crime, shall not illegally possess a controlled substance, shall comply with the standard conditions that have been adopted by this Court and shall comply with the following additional conditions.

I am going to waive the mandatory drug testing. I will find that this is not drug-related, and you are not at risk.

You shall not possess a firearm, destructive device, or any dangerous weapon. You will provide the probation officer with access to any requested financial information. There will be a sex offender registration and notification. You are required to register under the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and must comply with the requirements of that Act as directed by the probation officer.

Pursuant to the Adam Walsh Protection Act of 2006, you will register as a sexual offender not later than three business days from the release from custody. You will keep the registration current in each jurisdiction in which you reside, are employed, or you are a student. You shall no later than three business days after each change in name, residence, employment, or status appear in person at least — in at least one jurisdiction in which you are registered and inform that

jurisdiction of all changes in reporting information.

Failure to do so may be a violation of your condition of supervised release and may be a new federal offense punishable by up to ten years. You shall not associate or have verbal, written, telephone, or electronic communication with any person under the age of 18 except, one, in the presence of the parent or legal guardian of said minor, and two, on the condition that the Defendant notify said parent or legal guardian of his conviction in the instant offense.

This provision does not encompass persons under the age of 18 such as waiters, cashiers, ticket vendors, et cetera, with whom Defendant must deal in order to obtain ordinary and usual commercial services.

You shall not associate in person or in any other manner with any individual who has a sexual interest in or attraction to minors, that is, persons under the age of 18 nor shall you correspond with any such individual without the prior express written approval of the probation officer.

You shall not seek obtain or maintain any residence, employment, volunteer work, church, or recreational activities involving minors in any way without the prior express written approval of the probation officer. You shall not reside within 100

yards of school yards, playgrounds, theme parks, arcades swimming pools, skating rinks, toy stores, and other places where persons under the age of 18 play, congregate, or gather without the prior express written approval of the probation officer.

You will comply with all applicable requirements to register as a sexual offender. At the direction of the probation officer, you will participate in an outpatient mental health program, including treatment for sexual deviancy, which may include polygraph testing.

Mr. Warner, at this point, would you recommend institutional treatment?

MR. WARNER: Yes, your Honor, and we would ask the Court to make the recommendation that Butner,
North Carolina, which offers the kind of treatment
Mr. Kerestes needs, and we would also ask that the Court indicate in its order that Mr. Kerestes was a corrections officer. Therefore, he should not be housed in Pennsylvania where he was. That could be dangerous for him.

THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Sullivan?

MR. SULLIVAN: Judge, I just — if the desire to get him sex offender treatment is — I don't believe Butner is doing that any more. I believe Devon,

Massachusetts — I think there are going to be two institutions. One is Devon, Massachusetts. I believe Butner is moving toward doing the civil commitment of sex offenders that was required under the Adam Walsh Act. I am not sure if you want to designate a specific institution or just as the treatment.

THE COURT: Right. Mr. Warner, let's do
this: I will recommend that the appropriate facility or
institution for treatment for sexual deviancy
Mr. Kerestes be sent to consistent with their assessment.

MR. WARNER: Thank you, your Honor.

THE COURT: Okay. Which will include, of course, the institutional treatment and also recommend that Mr. Kerestes does not serve in Pennsylvania. It is up to the Bureau to decide what to do, but those will be the recommendations.

I do not want to forget the computer internet restricted — let's go ahead and put that on the record. Defendant is prohibited from accessing any online computer service at any location, including employment or education, without prior written approval of the U.S. Probation Office or the Court.

This includes any internet service provider, bulletin board system, or any other public or private computer network. Any approval shall be subject to

conditions set by the U.S. Pretrial Services probation officer or the Court with respect to that approval.

Defendant shall consent to the U.S.

Probation Office conducting periodic unannounced examinations of his computer system, which may include retrieval and copying of all memory from hardware, software and/or removal of such systems for the purpose of conducting a more thorough inspection and will consent to having installed on his computer at his expense any hardware or software to monitor his computer use or prevent access to particular materials.

Defendant consents to periodic inspection of any such installed hardware—software to ensure it is functioning properly. Defendant shall provide the U.S. Probation Office with accurate information about his entire computer system. That includes hardware and software, all passwords used by him and his internet service provider and will abide by all rules of the computer restriction and monitoring program.

Defendant shall submit his person,
residence, place of business, computer, or vehicle to a
warrantless search conducted and controlled by the U.S.
Pretrial Services probation office at a reasonable time,
in a reasonable manner based upon reasonable suspicion of
contraband or evidence of a violation of a condition of

release. Failure to submit to a search may be grounds for revocation.

Defendant shall inform any other residents that the premises and his computer may be subject to a search pursuant to this condition. Defendant shall cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer. All right.

Mr. Warner, anything further on behalf of Mr. Kerestes before I read him his appellate rights?

MR. WARNER: No. Thank the Court.

THE COURT: Mr. Kerestes, because you did not sign a plea agreement, you do not have limited appeal rights; you have full appellate rights. If you wish to appeal the conviction or sentence in this case, you must do so within 10 days after entry of this Court's judgment.

You have the right to have papers properly prepared and filed on your behalf, and you do have the right to counsel on appeal. And if you cannot afford counsel on appeal, of course, we will pay for counsel to represent you.

Do you understand those rights?

THE DEFENDANT: Yes, your Honor.

THE COURT: And Mr. Warner, I would just ask that you continue to safe guard Mr. Kerestes' rights of

1 appeal pending any decision he may have in that regard. 2 I will. Thank you, your Honor. MR. WARNER: 3 THE COURT: Okay. Mr. Sullivan, on behalf 4 of the Government, anything further at this point? 5 MR. SULLIVAN: No. Thank you, Judge. 6 THE COURT: Mr. Gold, anything further? 7 MR. GOLD: No. Thank you. 8 THE COURT: Thanks everyone. 9 remanded, and we are adjourned. (Hearing concluded at 10 12:32 p.m.) 11 12 CERTIFICATE 13 I, George J. Staiduhar, Official Court 14 Reporter in and for the United States District Court, 15 for the Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division, 16 do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true 17 and correct transcript of the proceedings herein. 18 19 20 21 s/George J. Staiduhar George J. Staiduhar, 22 Official Court Reporter 23 U.S. District Court 801 W. Superior Ave., Suite 7-184 Cleveland, Ohio 44113 24 (216) 357-7128 25